UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| Applicant:  | Bruce M. Mueller et al. | ) | PATENT APPLICATION      |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
|             |                         | ) | SEA0820P1270US (SC-148) |
| Serial No.: | 10/036,761              | ) | <i>i</i> .              |
|             |                         | ) | Group Art Unit: 1732    |
| Filed:      | December 21, 2001       | ) |                         |
|             | ·                       | ) | Confirmation No. 4775   |
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| Examiner:   | Not Yet Designated      | ) | THED.                   |
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## FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the art identified on the attached form PTO-1449 and other matters discussed below may be helpful to the Patent Office in its examination of the application identified above.

A copy of each of the documents is enclosed herewith for the Examination MAR JOZOR PO consideration.

The order of listing of the art on the attached Form PTO-1449 should r construed as an indication of the importance of the listed art.

The Patent and Trademark Office Examiner is requested to review the art and determine the extent of the materiality of the disclosures thereof with respect to the patentability of the subject invention. It is expected that the Patent and Trademark Office Examiner will independently conduct a complete search for relevant prior art.

No inference should be drawn and no representation is made or intended: (a) that a search has been made, or if made, was complete; (b) that the art on the attached list presents a comprehensive investigation of the prior art; or (c) that no more pertinent art than that listed is in existence. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g)]

Citation of any art herein is not to be construed as an admission: (a) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, pertinent to the instant invention, or equivalent to the instant invention; (b) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant in the instant patent application; (c) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b); and/or (d) that the art disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention and application. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g).]

No inference should be drawn that the discussion of any art herein is a discussion of each and every feature disclosed therein.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosures of any document or other art, including the disclosures

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of the art cited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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## **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March  $\bigcirc$ , 2002.

Paul M Odell

Comparable to Form PTO/SB/08A (10-96)

Approved for use through 10/31/1999. OMB 0651-0031
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| Substitute for form 1449APTOMAR 1 5 2002 |                |       |   | Application Number                    | 10/036,761   |  |
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| INFORMATIO<br>STATEMENT                  | N DISCL        | OSURE |   | First Named Inventor                  |  |  |
|  |                |       |   | Group Art Unit                        |  |  |
| (Use as many sl                          | eets as neces. | sary) |   | Examiner Name                         |  |  |
| Sheet                                    | 1              | of    | 1 | Attorney Docket No.                   | SEA0820P1270US (SC-148)  |  |

|                       | r     |   | F  | OREIGN PATE | ENT DOCUMENTS   |                                       | -  |                |
|-----------------------|-------|---|--|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials' |       | Foreign Patent Document  Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> |  |             | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited<br>Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document | Pages, Columns,<br>Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages | T <sub>e</sub> |
|                       |       |   | (if known)   | - coamen    | MM-DD-YYY   | or Relevant<br>Figures Appear         | 1  |                |
|                       |       | EP  | 0 920 967<br>(including EP Search<br>Report and Annex) | Al          | Becton  | 06/09/99                              |  |                |
|                       |       | EP  | 0 920 967  | В1          | Becton  | 02/13/02                              |  |                |
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<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in

conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Unique citation designation number. 2 See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicate don the document under WIPO Standards ST.16, if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a shockmark berg if English Indiana. Translation is attached. checkmark here if English language Translation is attached.